



**Indiana State
University**

Office of the President

616-262

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MAY 6 1997

**Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary**

May 2, 1997

Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Chong,

It is our understanding that the Federal Communications Commission is considering funding the Universal Service requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 in part through major increases in business Subscriber Line Charges, through imposition of a new pre-subscribed line surcharge on all business lines, and through a surcharge on each pager and cellular telephone. Whether intended or not, such charges would adversely impact non-profit, tax supported institutions like Indiana State University. Our budgets are already under severe strain in accommodating the extremely rapid growth in the application of information technology in higher education. A further increase in expenses would require either a like increase in appropriations from state tax monies, an increase in tuition, or scaling back our own programs to support primary and secondary school enhancements. We do not believe such was the intent of Congress, and ask that consideration be given to exempting non-profit organizations from any increase in the Subscriber Line Charge and from payment of the pre-subscribed line and pager-cellular telephone surcharges.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

John Moore
President

cc: Senator Richard Lugar
Senator Daniel Coats
U.S. Representative Edward Pease

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96-262
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MAY 6 1997

May 1, 1997

Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20054

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act - through its Universal Service Fund provisions - mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century. As of now our school system is unable to afford Internet capabilities to extend access to each classroom. Our local telephone company has been reluctant to give our schools reduced rates. We would like for our students to have the same opportunities that are afforded to students in more affluent areas. Without the passage of the Telecommunications Act, there is very little hope that we will ever be able to provide this opportunity.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to the schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

Elaine Neal

Daytona Beach Community College
 P.O. Box 2811
 1200 International Speedway Blvd.
 Daytona Beach, Florida 32120-2811
 Phone (904) 255-1831
 FAX (904) 254-4400

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MAY 6 1997

FaxFederal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary**To: Reed E. Hundt, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission****From:** Charlene Evans, director of Telecommunications and Computing Support**Fax:** 202.418.2801**Pages:** 1**Phone:****Date:** May 6, 1997**Re: Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket NO. 96-262****CC: James E. Quello, Commissioner** 202.418.2802**Rachelle B. Chong, Commission** 202.418.2820**Susan Ness, Commissioner** 202.418.2821**Brian Moir, Atty. ACUTA** 606.278.3268**Jeri Semer, ACUTA,** 606.278.3268

☒ **Urgent** ☐ **For Review** ☐ **Please Comment** ☐ **Please Reply** ☐ **Please Recycle**

• **Comments:**

As presently constructed the proposal referenced above would significantly increase the cost of telecommunications services for our institution. As proposed, these changes could increase our monthly telephone charges by as much as 58%. If enacted, this proposal could increase our current operational budget by over \$75,000 per year. Although our use of cellular and paging units is limited at present, our multi-campus environment will require increased use of these devices. The budget impact referenced above does not take into account the increases proposed in the wireless service unit areas.

This proposal, aimed at providing discounted telecommunications services for K-12 schools, libraries and rural health facilities should be carefully considered. The intent of the proposal would be seriously compromised if the access provided at these institutions caused an equal and opposite scenario at institutions of higher education. The net effect might well be in direct opposition to the total purpose of providing accessibility to higher education through distance learning and expanded student access to knowledge bases throughout the world.

May 6, 1997

Second residential lines have become a desirable component in the total plan of time and place independent learning. The proposal to raise the SLC cap on second residential lines does not encourage individual faculty initiative and could represent an additional burden for students involved in distance learning classes.

You are encouraged to look carefully at the possible adverse effects this proposal could have, and explore solutions that could produce the desired results without placing an increased financial burden on institutions of higher education.

MAY-06-97 TUE 10:20

P. 01/02

SUNSHINE PERIOD

96-262

In addition to Congressman Hastert, this letter was sent to the following Members of the House and Senate Commerce Committees:

The Honorable Greg Ganske

The Honorable Scott Klug

The Honorable Richard M. Burr

The Honorable John Shimkus

The Honorable John Ashcroft

The Honorable Sam Brownback

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

DEERE & COMPANY

JOHN DEERE ROAD, MOLINE, ILLINOIS 61265 U.S.A.



May 6, 1997

The Honorable J Dennis Hastert
United States House of Representatives
2241 Rayburn
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hastert:

Last December, the Federal Communications Commission initiated the most significant phase of its implementation of the new telecommunications law--its universal service and interstate access charges. Recent reports on the FCC's progress in setting these rates are extremely disturbing for multi-line users like Deere & Company and other businesses both large and small. According to the International Communications Association, if the FCC's most recent proposal is adopted overall multi-line users' interstate costs could increase by almost \$3 billion. This total approximates the amount the Commission plans to allocate for helping connect public K-12 schools, libraries and rural health care facilities to the Internet.

We do not question the wisdom of improving these entities' access to this communications and informational tool, but find the proposed funding mechanism objectionable. If not modified, a societal goal with widespread general application will be financed primarily by industries unrelated to telecommunications.

Deere & Company estimates the multi-line user surcharge for Internet services would cost the company over \$1 million annually. We urge the formulation of a more acceptable solution to this funding need.

Sincerely,

William M. Coopman

Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs

cc: Chairman Reed E. Hundt
Commissioner James D. Quello
Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Commissioner Susan Ness

96-262

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MAY 6 1997

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

LATIMER COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL

806 HIGHWAY #2 NORTH, WILBURTON, OKLAHOMA 74578 (918) 465-2391

FAX#: 918-465-3755

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 5-6-97 FAX # 202-418-2820

PLEASE DELIVER IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT

TO Commissioner Chong

RE: _____

FROM Jack Martin

NUMBER OF PAGES 02

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

THE DOCUMENTS ACCOMPANYING THIS TRANSMISSION CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION INTENDED FOR A SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL AND PURPOSE. THE INFORMATION IS PRIVATE AND IS LEGALLY PROTECTED BY LAW. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE THEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISCLOSURE, COPYING, DISTRIBUTION OR THE TAKING OF ANY ACTION IN RELIANCE ON THE CONTENTS OF THIS TELECOPIED INFORMATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

LATIMER COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL

806 HIGHWAY #2 NORTH, WILBURTON, OKLAHOMA 74578 (918) 465-2391

Commissioner Rachelle Chong
Fax: 202-418-2820
May 5, 1997

Dear Commissioner Chong,

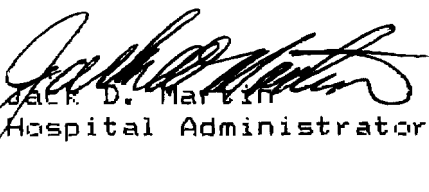
At the present time, we here at Latimer County General Hospital have the equipment needed to provide a Telemedicine Service, but we are presently quoted a \$14.00/mile per month cost for the line. We are in such a remote area, that any facility that we could refer to, would be at least 100 miles away, which would be \$1400.00 PER MONTH!

Because of our rural location and the size of our facility, we simply could not afford this cost. As a small, county facility, we are barely keeping our doors open as it is. We are at least 35 miles away from the nearest larger hospital, and we were counting on Telemedicine to enable us to improve our service to our patients, but unless we receive some subsidy, we will not be able to use this innovative technology, which is now being offered in so many areas.

On behalf of our Hospital Board and Medical Staff, I ask your support in granting a subsidy to make the cost of Telemedicine affordable in our area, and all similar rural areas.

Thank you for any help you can provide!

Sincerely,



JACK D. MARTIN
Hospital Administrator

JDM/caj

96-262



SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

May 5, 1997

Commissioners
FCC Commission
Washington, D.C.

Dear Commissioner Chong:

We are writing to request your support to vote on the universal service policy which is part of the implementation of the telecommunications Act of 1996. The key provision of the Act mandates the FCC to direct Telecommunications subsidies to schools, libraries and rural healthcare providers. As a rural health provider, we are extremely concerned about the effect of continuing the current rates and the potential for providing the services through this medium. The key to the provisions is the fact that distance charges currently prohibit most providers from the distance charges on a monthly basis. Without the subsidization of distance charges, the Telecommunication Acts benefits for rural health providers would be minimal.

Although we are fortunate to have non-toll charge access to an Internet service provider, it is clear that in other areas this is not available. Therefore, the proposal to support ISP charges is requested to also be supported in this vote so that improved access for information and services may be achieved for rural providers.

Thank you for your important consideration of these facts. Your positive vote in support of the universal service policy would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Gary W. Mitchell, CHE
Chief Executive Officer

GWM/vc



SUNSHINE PERIOD

96-262

May 5, 1997

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Commissioner Jim Quello 202/418-2802
Commissioner Rachelle Chong 202/418-2820
Commissioner Susan Ness 202/418-2821
Federal Communications Commission

VIA FAX

Dear Commissioner:

Please vote to extend REAL universal service to rural America this week.

Colusa Community Hospital is a small rural hospital in Northern California. This request for help is sent via FAX because 60 miles north of the California's state capital we still do not have toll-free internet access.

Later this week, you will be voting on whether small rural hospitals like ours can have reasonable access rates to the same telecommunications services our urban neighbors have enjoyed for several years. I urge you to help make this happen! Rural America has been bypassed by the information super-highway because neither the FCC nor the state PUCs has made it a priority.

I know the value of telemedicine in rural health. Our hospital is one of the "top ten telemedicine sites" in the nation (December, Telemedicine and Telehealth Networks). We have tested and proven the concept of linking rural health professionals with urban consultants to improve the health of our patients. The lack of access to an adequate telecommunications network denies this technology to most of rural America. Please help tear down this wall by voting to eliminate or subsidize the onerous distance charges levied by the carriers.

As the Chairman of California's Rural Hospital Association, I know your vote will have a dramatic impact on our 75 small and rural hospitals. Access to the internet and realistic toll charges will make high quality medical services available to all Americans. The purpose of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 is to level the health playing field between urban and rural residents. Without your vote to reduce the cost of rural access that won't happen.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Bland, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Congressman Vic Fazio (D-CA)

96-262

Madison Medical Center

P.O. Box 431
100 South Wood at College
Fredericktown, Missouri 63645
573-783-3341
Fax 573-783-1096

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

SUNSHINE PERIOD

May 5, 1997

Commissioner Rachelle Chong, Republican
Fax: (202) 418-2820

Dear Ms. Chong:

Approximately four years ago, Madison Medical Center attempted a tele-radiology program with Missouri Baptist Medical Center in St. Louis, Missouri; however, due to the extreme cost of the necessary phone lines, MMC was unable to afford the tele-radiology program. We would appreciate the opportunity to participate in tele-medicine programs if they were more affordable. I am in full support of reduced rates so that rural communities would have better access to care from larger institutions.

If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Floyd D. Bounds
Administrator

FDB:mlb



SUNSHINE PERIOD

46-262

Walled Lake Consolidated Schools

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William Hamilton, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, K-12

MAY 6 1997

Educational Services Center
850 Ladd Road, Building D
Walled Lake, MI 48390
Phone: 810/960-8314
FAX: 810/624-3123

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 30, 1997

Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am writing to thank you for your dedication and commitment to ensure that all schools have affordable access to the information highway. The creation of a Universal Service Fund to discount telecommunication services for every school and library in the country is the first major initiative to address the needs of our nation's students. This joint effort between the government and businesses will provide the schools with the electronic communications that will allow us to prepare our students for the workforce of tomorrow. I am very disappointed to hear that some telecommunications providers are attempting to undermine this implementation plan by drastically reducing the size of the Universal Service Fund and eliminating the guaranteed discounts for key areas such as classroom connections and Internet use. I am confident, however, that your support of the joint boards discount plan for the universal service for all schools and libraries in the nation will provide for the best educational environment for our students. Your support of this major initiative is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'William A. Hamilton'.

William A. Hamilton, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, K-12

WAH:rih

96-262

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May 1, 1997

Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20054

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Chong:

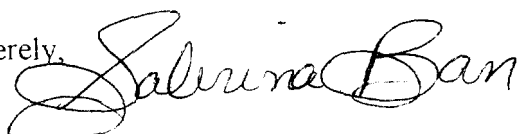
I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act - through its Universal Service Fund provisions - mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century. As of now our school system is unable to afford Internet capabilities to extend access to each classroom. Our local telephone company has been reluctant to give our schools reduced rates. We would like for our students to have the same opportunities that are afforded to students in more affluent areas. Without the passage of the Telecommunications Act, there is very little hope that we will ever be able to provide this opportunity.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to the schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

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Sincerely,

Beth Bland

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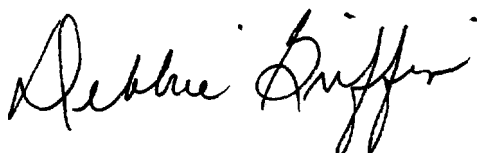
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Sincerely,

Mildred C. Bowen (Paraprofessional)

96-262

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Sincerely,

Cynthia W. Stapleton

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Sincerely,

Pam Walker

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Sincerely,

Christi Howell

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Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to the schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wright

96-262

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

May 1, 1997

Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20054

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Chong:

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Kim Fowler

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Sincerely,

Shelby Meeks

96-262

SUNSHINE PERIOD RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Conemaugh Valley School District
1451 Frankstown Road
Johnstown, PA 15902
April 30, 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am a member of the Conemaugh Valley School District's Technology Committee, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the work force of tomorrow.

The Conemaugh Valley School District would use the discounts to develop secondary and elementary school wide area networks which would provide Internet connectivity for approximately 1200 elementary and secondary school students and staff.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Pauline Springer

96-262
RECEIVED

SUNSHINE PERIOD

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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1451 Frankstown Road
Johnstown, PA 15902
April 30, 1997

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Thank you.

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Louis M. Ajirah

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April 30, 1997

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Thank you.

Sincerely, *William R. Ashen, Principal*